

**Texas Air Medical Task Force  
of the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)**

Tuesday, January 18, 2005 at 10:00 am  
Classroom "A"  
San Antonio International Airport  
Terminal 1

**AGENDA – Plus Notes**

Blue indicates language developed at the January 18, 2005 AMTF meeting.

Statements preceded by "REC:" and in "blue" indicate language that will be presented to GETAC at the Feb 11, 2005 GETAC committee meeting in Austin, Texas.

■ Introductions

■ Hospital Notification Proposal to GETAC: Update

*(Proposed language presented at November GETAC meeting) Hospital licensure rules be amended to include a provision to require each hospital that proposes helipad operational changes to notify the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the RAC of the TSA in which the hospital is located and all appropriate AMPs of those changes 120 days prior to proposed implementation of the changes. (AMEND this proposal as per discussion at January 18, 2005)*

*REC: Hospital trauma designation rules shall be developed to require each hospital to notify DSHS and the RAC, in which the hospital is located, of all changes that affect air medical access to designated landing sites.*

*Non-emergent changes shall be implemented no earlier than 120 days after written notification process.*

*Emergency changes related to safety may be implemented with immediate notification to DSHS, the RAC and appropriate Air Medical Providers.*

*REC: Issues relating to helipad air medical access changes shall be handled:*

- 1. At provider/facility level.*
- 2. If unable to resolve access issue, refer to peer review process (local RAC) in general designation rules.*

*REC: An air medical committee be established within GETAC to address the air medical rules to promote safety, patient care, and statewide system development.*

*REC: DSHS will advise the RAC of changes (new service, modification of service area, changes in sub-location addresses or termination of services) in AMP licensure no less than 30 days prior to the change occurring.*

*REC: AMP shall notify the RAC and the receiving facilities that are located within the programs advertised service area no less than 30 days prior to the change occurring.*

■ Air Medical Provider Advisory Group Proposal to GETAC

*(Proposed language presented at September 23, 2004 AMTF meeting) Each regional advisory council (RAC) be required to create an air medical provider (AMP) advisory group to address both operational and clinical issues. This requirement shall apply to RACs that have any AMPs that routinely respond into their respective trauma service areas (TSA).*

*REC: Each regional advisory council (RAC) will establish an air medical provider (AMP) advisory group to address both operational and clinical issues.*

■ RAC Participation by Air Medical Providers

■ Helipad Liability Insurance Requirements

*(Austin/Travis County Proposal) - We could support the minimal level of liability insurance being increased to the amount being discussed by CAMTS, 10 million dollars. We could also support a hospitals need to require a higher liability amount assuming that facility could work either with their insurance carrier to develop a single use policy that would cover a visiting aircraft or cover the cost of not being able to subrogate the liability of the visiting program. The definition of visiting aircraft should be defined so this is not used by aero medical programs routinely transporting patient's to the affected hospital. The cost of the single use program, assuming it is a reasonable fee, could be passed on to the transporting aero medical program.*

*It provides the hospital with the ability to set the liability limits where they feel their risk are. It allows aero medical programs who rarely transport to that facility to meet the requirements without purchasing insurance that they rarely need. It passes the cost of the single use policy onto the program that is delivering the patient. It does require the hospital to develop a system to track, bill and collect the fee. Additionally, we should develop a position and consequences if aero medical programs do not pay the pre-approved, published landing fee. Airports do this, we should be able to look at their processes and see if there is a way to use their processes to solve our problems.*

■ CAMTS Standards for Licensing Proposal

*REC: (Proposed language developed at the September 23, 2004 AMTF meeting) Rules 157.12 & 157.13 be revised to adopt CAMTS accreditation or equivalent state survey plus the essential criteria established by the DSHS as the minimums*

*for licensure of rotor-wing and fixed-wing ambulances, respectively. The AMTF will assist in developing the essential criteria.*

*All Texas Licensed air medical programs, rotor and fixed-wing, have been invited by the DSHS participation in discussion and recommendations.*

■ Air Medical Crashes 2004 – 2005

*Andy Filetto, Director of Operations for Hermann Life Flight, discussed Draft recommendations from the FAA for HEMS operations in the wake of multiple air medical crashes and fatalities. When the final recommendations or rules are available, they will be posted on the AMTF list.*

■ Future Topics/Discussion Points

*Future Agenda item: Are Air Medical Services a public safety mission or a business?*

■ Rules Review of 157.11, 157.12 & 157.13

*In regard to the existing draft rules the following changes were recommended:*

- 1. 157.11(d)(7) – last sentence be reworded to include rotor-wing aircraft;*
- 2. 157.11(m)(9) – add AMP when appropriate;*
- 3. 157.11(m)(9)(iv) – require that information be provided to AMP when appropriate;*
- 4. 157.12(c)(5) – change words “vehicle” to “aircraft”;*
- 5. 157.12(f)(3) – change “may” to “must” & add “physician assistant” and “nurse practitioner”;*
- 6. 157.12(f)(5) – amend to say “. . . in accordance with all applicable FAA regulations”;*
- 7. 157.12(h)(15) – change “drugs” to “medications”;*
- 8. 157.13(b)(1) – change language regarding pressurization to be similar to CAMTS standard 18.01.01; and*
- 9. 157.13(b)(4) – add degree limits as in 157.12(b)(2);*

■ Next AMTF Meeting: February 10, 2005 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm at GETAC, Room M-739, 1100 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, Texas.

TAAMS meeting February 10, 2005 at 10am at STARFlight Hanger on Old Manor Road, Austin, Texas.